

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Wyckoff Heights Medical Center for its tremendous achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO CINDY ERKER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Morgan County Commissioner Cindy Erker for her fine achievements and hard work on behalf of the people of Morgan County, Colorado. Ms. Erker was named the 1998 County Commissioner of the Year by Colorado Counties, Inc. This prestigious award belongs to Ms. Erker due to her exceptional ability to serve, even in times of adversity. Her peers selected Cindy for the award at the Colorado Counties winter conference. This is the second time she has been recognized for her dedication and hard work. Responsible for pulling the community together to adopt an important drainage plan to avoid disastrous flooding in Ft. Morgan, Cindy was named the Freshman County Commissioner of the Year in 1991 by Colorado Counties, Inc. Mr. Speaker, I commend Cindy Erker for her perseverance, determination and leadership.

HONORING JUDITH VIERA OF WYND COMMUNICATIONS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judith Viera of my district on the Central Coast of California for the recent commendation she has received from Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. Ms. Viera is appropriately being honored for a lifetime commitment to expanding access to telecommunications services for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Deaf herself, Judith Viera has been dedicated to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals for more than thirty years. In 1965, Ms. Viera graduated from Gallaudet University and immediately began her life of public service and bettering the life of others.

Among her many contributions is her work with Governors Brown and Deukmajian to establish California's policy on telecommunications access for the deaf and hard of hearing in California, which subsequently lead to many other states adopting the same policy. Also, Ms. Viera founded the NorCal Center on Deafness which is committed to assisting people who are deaf or hard of hearing with communications services, independent living skills, and social services.

Judith Viera served as program manager at the California Department of Rehabilitation where she successfully advocated legislation which contributed to providing telecommunications equipment and services to the deaf and hard of hearing community. She was also appointed as the first and only deaf member to the National Exchange Carriers Association

Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Board which assists telecommunications providers in receiving compensation for the cost of interstate relay services.

Ms. Viera's most recent service has been as vice president of business development for Wynd Communications in San Luis Obispo, CA. Wynd Communications, which was founded in 1994, is a pioneer in providing wireless telecommunications services to the deaf and hard of hearing through out the nation.

I am truly honored to have Ms. Judith Viera as one of my constituents. She is an example of selfless commitment and altruistic dedication to a very meaningful cause, opening the bounties of our country to all of its citizens.

WHAT MATTERS TO COLORADANS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, for two years, Coloradans have been bombarded with opinions suggesting it's not about fidelity, commitment, or personal behavior. But now a new survey from the Rocky Mountain Family Council shows that what Coloradans really care about are lifelong, satisfying marriages and happy children.

Last Tuesday, as Members of Congress were returning to Washington for the impeachment vote, the Rocky Mountain Family Council was unveiling the "Marriage Matters: 1998 Colorado Marriage Health Index." The results clearly contradict the values demonstrated by the recent affairs of our President and Governor.

President Clinton's exploitation of a clever slogan proved decisive in ushering him into office, "It's the economy stupid!" Coloradans, being common sense, caring people, recognize marriage and family last forever. Economic prosperity, however, is often only as secure as the next paycheck. Sure, some may find solace in this period of relative economic prosperity. Fatter wallets tend to squelch the alarm of cultural decay to a certain degree.

But even the highest heights of consumer confidence cannot achieve the kind of moral indifference upon which political left-wingers are banking in the face of executive scandal and infidelity. On the contrary, Coloradans bristle when politicians betray their marriage vows for extramarital affairs, even when downplayed as "affectionate" or "hugging" relationships.

According to the Family Council, when asked if they could wave a magic wand and guarantee certain life goals for themselves, Coloradans overwhelmingly chose a lifelong, satisfying marriage and happy children over the material goods like fancy homes, comfortable retirements, and fulfilling careers. Further underscoring this result is the fact that Coloradans were far more willing to give up houses, retirements and careers if that would ensure a satisfying, lifelong marriage and happy kids.

The question for political leaders becomes one of how government can best help the average citizen achieve these goals. Government should take a page from the Hippocratic Oath: "First, do no harm."

Many well-intentioned government programs designed to strengthen families achieve just

the opposite, by subsidizing parents spending time away from their spouses and children. Government policies which support marriage and family, like doing away with the marriage tax penalty in the tax code, can go a long way toward ensuring Coloradans realize their family goals and dreams.

Working families struggling under a heavy tax burden may be so crushed by the weight of supporting lofty government programs they can't spend the time with their spouses and children they'd like. Economic prosperity, lower taxes, and freedom can support and strengthen families and marriages if they enable spouses and parents to devote more attention to what really matters.

Fancy house? Fat retirement accounts? Cushy jobs? These pale in comparison to heartfelt desires for happy marriages and children. As we enter the twenty-first century, elected officials would do well to respond to what Coloradans say is really important to them. Failure to do so will only perpetuate the myth that strong marriage and families are just by-products of a strong economy.

No one ever went to his or her grave saying "I wish I had worked longer hours." Government can, and should, do all in its power to allow families and marriages to grow strong without interference.

VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE'S TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER, SENATOR ALBERT GORE, SR., OF TENNESSEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on December 5, Albert Gore, Sr.—who served 14 years as a member of this House and another 18 years as a member of the United States Senate—died at his home in Carthage, Tennessee. I knew Senator Gore, Mr. Speaker, and I have great respect for this outstanding gentleman and distinguished public servant.

During his 32 years of service in the Congress, Senator Gore established a legacy that all of us can envy. He was the principal Senate author of the legislation that created the Interstate Highway System which was adopted by the Congress in 1956. He was a voice of reason and honor in supporting civil rights at a time when few southern political leaders would dare to take such a principal stand. He expressed his opposition to the war in Viet Nam, and that courageous position ultimately cost him his seat in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending the Memorial Service for Senator Albert Gore, Sr., in Nashville on December 8. On that occasion, our Vice President AL GORE delivered a moving eulogy to his father. No finer tribute could be paid to any father than the honor which Vice President GORE paid to his father last week. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Vice President's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read them and join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Gore.